



INNER CITY LAW CENTER

Serving the most vulnerable in Los Angeles

August 30, 2013

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Justice for Homeless Veterans in LA

Today there is more justice for homeless veterans with disabilities in Los Angeles. Judge S. James Otero has ruled that nine leases the VA entered into on its almost 400-acre West Los Angeles Campus in Brentwood are unauthorized by law and therefore void because they do not relate to healthcare services. The Court held that Congressional intent and the plain language of the statute authorizing the VA to enter into leases at the West LA VA Campus make clear the VA's authority is limited to sharing of healthcare resources.

Two years ago Inner City Law Center filed a class action lawsuit in Federal Court (*Valentini v. Shinseki*) on behalf of thousands of severely disabled veterans in the LA area. As a result of their disabilities they are homeless and cannot access medical and mental health treatment. The lawsuit seeks to require the VA to use the West LA Campus to provide housing and healthcare services to veterans. As part of the case we also challenged purely commercial and other leases that use about one fourth of the property and do not relate to the provision of healthcare, such as a laundry facility for a nearby hotel, the Brentwood private school's athletic complex, the UCLA baseball stadium and facilities, and other private land use deals. By voiding these leases, the property once again should be available for the benefits of disabled and homeless veterans.

The suit also seeks to encourage the use of the property for supportive housing for seriously disabled homeless veterans. By voiding these nine leases, we are hopeful that the VA will use the land as originally intended - as a permanent home for veterans.

Inner City Law Center is co-counseling on this case with the ACLU of Southern California, Professor Gary Blasi, Professor Laurence Tribe, Ron Olson, Arnold & Porter, and Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP.

Here is a link to a [map of the campus](#).

Here is a link to the [LA Times story](#) about the Court order.

Quick Links

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Walking Tours



To learn more about our homelessness and slum housing work, join us for one of our monthly walking tours of Skid Row.

The next tours are scheduled for:

Friday, September 13,
from 12:45 p.m. to
2:15 p.m.

Monday, October 21,
from 12:00 p.m. to
1:30 p.m.

Here is a link to the [court order](#).

Second Annual "Suite Night of Baseball" September 4

Judicate West, a leading provider of private dispute resolution services has once again provided ICLC with their Luxury Suite for our second "**Suite Night of Baseball**" which will be held September 4 at Angels Stadium of Anaheim. The Angels are playing the Tampa Bay Rays and the game time is 7:05 p.m.

- Suite located near home plate!
- Food and beverage included!

Last year's event was sold out and raised over \$15,000 to directly support our Homeless Veterans Project.

Underwriting and Sponsorship opportunities are available at the following levels:

- Diamond - \$10,000 for 10 tickets
- Platinum - \$5,000 for 8 tickets
- Gold - \$2,500 for 6 tickets
- Silver - \$1,000 for 4 tickets
- Bronze - \$500 for 2 tickets

Please [click here](#) to visit our online event page or you can download the sponsorship form [here](#).

We hope to see you at the game.

About Inner City Law Center

Inner City Law Center is the preeminent housing and homelessness legal-services organization working on behalf of poor people in Southern California. As the only provider of legal services located on Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles, ICLC combats slum housing throughout Los Angeles and develops strategies to end homelessness.

Each year, ICLC's staff of 40 (including 20 attorneys) provides free, high-quality legal representation to thousands of low-income tenants, working-poor families, immigrants, people who are homeless or disabled, and veterans. Driven by the fundamental principle that every person should always be treated with dignity and respect, ICLC works for long-term, positive, and meaningful change.

The tours begin and end at ICLC's offices at 7th and Central and are conducted by Adam Murray, ICLC's Executive Director.

Please contact:
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to RSVP.